

Memorandum

To : Mr. Lester Snow
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, California 95814

Date : July 25, 1997

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject : Transmittal of Department of Fish and Game Category III Proposals

Enclosed are originals and the requested copies of proposals submitted by the Department of Fish and Game in response to the Request for Proposals for the 1997 Category III projects.

The Department made a conscious decision, with one exception (Fall-run Chinook Salmon Genetic Characterization/Discrimination), to forward two types of proposals: those that result in direct and immediate restoration, and those that have direct and long-term physical restoration opportunities. Examples of the first type which are certain to be successful include screening of diversions and elimination of northern pike in Lake Davis. The second type (direct long-term restoration proposals) target habitat development and management and will take longer to attain the targeted habitat conditions and resultant benefit to individual species.

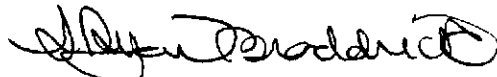
Our screening proposals, are submitted to Category III seeking funds that contribute to financing agreements that incorporate a variety of funds including CVPIA, Proposition 204 Chapter 4, Article 2 (CVPIP Subaccount), and local sponsor investment. The Department anticipates administering the referenced Subaccount to assist in achieving fifty percent (50%) of the non-federal cost share of CVPIA fish screening. Assuming that CVPIA continues to exercise their discretion to fund up to fifty percent (50%) of the screen costs, Proposition 204 Chapter 4, Article 2 (CVPIP Subaccount) funds are available to provide an additional twenty-five percent (25%), leaving 25% of project costs to be met from a variety of sources including Category III. We are committed to collaborating with, and participating on the proposed Integration Panel to coordinate alternative fund sources and making the necessary adjustments to funding mixes on a case by case basis.

The Department has developed a suite of scientific inquiry proposals that we believe are very important in the long term assessment of ecosystem quality, water quality, and system vulnerability. With some reluctance, for this round, we have elected to not submit these proposals. The rationale is threefold; 1) significant opportunity exists for direct immediate benefit projects; 2) studies and evaluations must build upon the current level of information and have coordinated agreement as to how the results will contribute to adaptive management for ecosystem restoration; and 3) The Interagency Ecological Program which currently

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provides resource assessment data and analysis on a routine basis to the CALFED Operations Group has the organizational infrastructure and equipment assets to perform and/or coordinate the majority of scientific inquiry proposals, providing anticipated funding is made available. We recommend that the existing Interagency Ecological Program be utilized to conduct and/or coordinate the various study, evaluation, and monitoring proposals that will be submitted to adaptively manage ecosystem restoration.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



L. Ryan Broddrick
Chief Deputy Director

Enclosures

cc: Mr. A. Petrovich, Deputy Director - Policy (w/o enclosures)
Region Managers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (w/o enclosures)
Division Chiefs: BDD, ESD, IFD, MRD, NHD, WMD, WPD (w/o enclosures)

DWR WAREHOUSE

CATEGORY III PROPOSAL

97 JUL 28 PM 1:57
Title of Project: Northern Pike Eradication Project, Lake Davis, Plumas County

Name of Applicant: California Department of Fish and Game
Region II
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 96760

Attention: Banky Curtis
(916) 358-2900

Type of Organization: State of California

Tax Identification Number: N/A

Technical and Financial Contact: Nick Villa (916) 358-2943, FAX 358-2912

Participants/Collaborators in Implementation: California Department of Water Resources

RFP Project Group Type: Group 3, Other Services

Project Description

a. Project Description and Approach

Northern pike (*Esox lucius*) would be eradicated from Davis Lake using a the registered pesticide Nusyn-Noxfish. Approximately 50,000 acre-feet (AF) of water would be treated during a two day period to kill all fish in the reservoir and its upstream tributaries (to the extent that pike are present). The treatment would take place September 29, 1997. Dead fish cleanup and monitoring of water quality would last up to 4 to 6 weeks after treatment. The release water below the dam will be detoxified with potassium permanganate during treatment and for several weeks until all traces of fish-toxic rotenone is gone.

b. Location

Davis Lake is an impoundment on Big Grizzly Creek which is tributary to the Middle Fork Feather River. Located with the Plumas National Forest in Plumas County, the reservoir can store up to 84,000 AF of water. It was built and is operated by the Department of Water Resources and is primarily used for recreation. It also serves as one of the drinking water sources for the city of Portola and other local communities.

c. Expected Benefits

Eradication would prevent significant impacts on the important native and nonnative fish species of the Central Valley. Investment of the project funds will prevent the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars later while additional jeopardy on the various listed species would be prevented.

d. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

Northern pike were illegally planted and were discovered in Lake Davis, August, 1994. Since then the Department has determined that a reproducing population of northern pike exists and that eradication of these fish is necessary to prevent their further spread in the state. If allowed to escape and establish in the Central Valley, northern pike could severely impact our existing native, commercial and sport fisheries. Because of its potential to colonize the valley streams and Delta, additional stress would be placed on our already depleted stocks of salmon, steelhead and other species of anadromous and resident fish. Northern pike are fast growing, highly predaceous fish that if established in the Central Valley would be impossible to eliminate and very difficult to mitigate for. Eradication of pike while still contained in Lake Davis would be the most prudent action to take. All other restorative programs and actions taking place now and planned could be potentially negated by the establishment of pike in the Central Valley.

e. Proposed Scope of Work

The project is comprised of four major phases: 1) Planning 2) Pre-treatment preparation, 3) Chemical treatment and detoxification and 4) Post treatment monitoring and mitigation. The planning phase which includes regulatory compliance and actual planning of the entire project is nearly complete and its costs virtually absorbed by the Department. Pre-treatment includes acquisition and development of alternate drinking water supplies, retrofitting of boats and equipment, purchasing and staging chemicals and identifying specific treatment zones and training chemical treatment and enforcement staff. Phase 3 includes the actual distribution of chemicals to eradicate fish in target zones and to detoxify the piscicide in downstream areas of the reservoir. This phase also includes potential clean up of dead fish. Post treatment monitoring and mitigation includes water quality testing, fish sampling and restocking of the lake and other areas.

This proposal seeks to acquire funds to enable the Department to carry out the Pre-treatment preparation and the Chemical Treatment and Detoxification phases.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

Not applicable.

g. Implementation

Local support is lacking. The Department was issued a Temporary Restraining Order because we did not have a fully operational drinking water supply available to the city of Portola. We are in the process of meeting all the stipulations of the TRO and anticipate the Superior Court

to lift the TRO soon. We have, however, statewide support from many of our conservation and environmental factions. While the local populations are opposed we are confident that with a temporary, perhaps permanent, alternate drinking water supply provided that those opposed will acquiesce.

Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

Pre-Treatment Phase	
Chemicals	\$800,000
Retrofit of boats and purchase of new equipment	15,000
Alternate drinking water supply	180,000
Chemical Treatment and Detoxification	
Lodging	20,000
Law enforcement (enhanced)	170,000
Water quality monitoring	12,000
Dead fish cleanup and rendering fees	3,000
Total	\$1,200,000

Proposed treatment to begin September 29, 1997. Detoxification to be complete 4 to 6 weeks later. Mitigation to begin and reopening of lake to occur immediately after detoxification.

Applicant Qualifications

Region 2 fisheries management staff are experienced in large aquatic chemical treatments. On staff are various experts trained and experienced in handling and application of registered piscicides. This treatment proposal by the Department is under the authority of the State Constitution, further authorized in the Fish and Game Code and permissible under other state codes as well. Eradication of undesirable fish species by chemical treatment is within Department policy and is an acceptable fishery management technique by the American Fisheries Society.